

Freedom concert draws large crowd

By Avigdor Zoromp
special writer

Music is a universal language that can unite people from different ethnic and national backgrounds.

On the other hand, it can also be used as a powerful medium to serve a particular cause. These functions, which seem contradictory, in fact complement each other. Any medium that fails to address itself to existing conditions and situations tends to weaken its foundation.

The recent Freedom Concert, presented at the Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills, was one event that was directed toward a specific political problem, but its message can be viewed as universal.

It was organized by the Detroit Soviet Jewry Committee, and the money from this event is earmarked toward helping Soviet Jews.

Among the main organizers of this event were Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) timpanist, Robert Pangborn, and his wife Brenda. The forces that combined for the performance might well prove to be more formidable than professional politicians.

They consisted of members of the DSO and conductor, Semyon Bychkov, music director of the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, and the celebrated Israeli pianist, David Bar-Ilan.

ANOTHER contributing force was the Soviet-born Jewish composer, David Panko, whose composition, "The Walling Wall," was the opening selection in the program. Other works on the program consisted of short piano pieces by Bar-Ilan and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, "Eroica."

The event drew a large crowd, with many familiar faces. One distinguishing feature of this event was that all men both in the audience and orchestra were wearing yarmulkes, or skull-caps, which is the Jewish custom in Orthodox and Conservative synagogues.

An ironic coincidence is the fact that there exists a Bar-Ilan University in Israel, unrelated to our pianist, but very religious in character and it requires all its students and faculty to wear yarmulkes.

Now, at last, one has to wear a yar-

review

muske to hear David Bar-Ilan, which is an appropriate tribute to his masterful talent. Originally, he was scheduled to perform Mendelssohn's G minor Piano Concerto, but due to a severe backache he had to change the plan and gave a recital instead.

This consisted of the familiar Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso by Mendelssohn and the Rakoczy March by Liszt, as well as some less familiar pieces by the Israeli composer Paul Ben-Haim and a segment from the "Age of Anxiety" by Bernstein.

This was a rare opportunity to note my own change of taste since my life in Israel. At that time, Ben-Haim was looked down upon by myself and several other classical purists. His works are seldom performed outside Israel. On this occasion, however, I found his Tocata, based on a familiar Israeli Hora dance, very listenable and well written.

THE OPENING selection, "The Walling Wall" by David Panko, is an impressive composition written for this occasion. The composition refers to the "Western Wall," the surviving trace of the second Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, which was destroyed by the Romans in the year 70 A.D.

It is considered the most holy shrine for Jews and it served as a symbol and reminder for almost 2,000 years. It is located in Old Jerusalem and until the Six Day War in 1967 wasn't accessible to Jews.

The composition is based on three main elements. It opens with trills from the entire orchestra that symbolize flaming fires, suffering and death. Then, the main theme, based on cantorial idioms, symbolizes Jewish courage and suffering.

The third thematic material forms a "Choral Anthem," representing Jewish power, grandeur and strength. (These descriptions are based on notes by the composer).

Panko, who was present at the event, is a prolific composer whose compositions were played in the Soviet Union until his departure.

Colorful coverup

Quilts galore would be a good title for the exhibit being planned for Sunday and Monday, May 22 and 23 at the Northwest YWCA, 25940 Grand River. More than 200 handmade beauties will be on display. Many have been made by first-year students in the class taught by Nancy Pryor (center), including Elly Shiller (left) and Ileana Line. Pryor, who has been teaching for 13 years, said there is a resurgence of interest in the handmade quilts. "More and more people want to do it the old-fashioned way," she added. Anyone wishing to display their favorite quilt in the show, or anyone wanting a booth at the event, should contact Karen Drake at 537-8500 as soon as possible. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. Admission is \$1.50 with children under 12 admitted free if accompanied by a parent. For more information, call 537-8500.



Applications available for 'Miss Farmington'

Deadline for young women aged 17-26 to enter the Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant is Wednesday, June 1. Applications can be picked up in Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, in its new office at 33201 Grand River.

Contestants will be judged on personality, poise, talent, swimming and evening gown presentations in the pageant, set for July 27 in Vladimir's.

Contestants will be invited to participate in a series of workshops and seminars where they will receive instructions in grooming, modeling and interviewing techniques by members of the pageant committee.

SEVERAL FORMER PAGEANT winners will meet the contestants to offer tips and advice based on their experiences in the pageant.

The Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant is a franchise of the Miss Michigan and Miss America Pageants, so the winner of the local pageant auto-

matically advances to the state competition.

If she wins the title of Miss Michigan, she earns herself the opportunity to compete in the Miss America Pageant, held each September in Atlantic City.

Miss Farmington 1982, Roxanne D'Ascenzo, who will relinquish her crown at the 1983 pageant, will represent the two neighboring cities at the 1983 Miss Michigan Pageant Saturday, June 11, in Muskegon.

She was selected at last year's pageant, which is part of the annual Founders Festival.

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